



# Neighborhood Revitalization Program

Presented by VI Housing Finance Authority





## Program Overview

- The Neighborhood Revitalization Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The program will fund \$12.6 million in projects designed to preserve the community's commercial, residential, and historic areas.
- The program also seeks to foster small business growth and build these businesses to withstand commerce disruptions natural or man-made disasters.
- This program shall fund transformational change that will retain or create low-and-moderate income jobs or provide services to individuals with the designated income range. Additional benefits may quality-of-life improvements for residents and visitors.
- Funding for the Neighborhood Revitalization Program comes from the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds which were allocated to the US Virgin Islands to assist in long-term recovery after the 2017 hurricanes.



# Neighborhood Revitalization Program



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). The program is ***divided into two programs:***



## Building Façade and Streetscape Enhancement Program

**National Objective: Low-and Moderate-Income Area; Low-and-Moderate Income Jobs**



## Small Business Grant and Technical Assistance Program

**National Objective: Low-and Moderate-Income Clientele; Low-and Moderate-Income Jobs**

# Building Façade and Streetscape Enhancement Program

Use of funds under the Building Façade and Streetscape Enhancement Program option must either:

1. Result in the creation of jobs primarily for low-to moderate-income persons in the Territory; or
2. Provide goods or services to residents of an area, such that the number of low- and moderate-income persons residing in the areas served by the assisted businesses amounts to at least one low- and moderate-income person per \$350 of CDBG funds used.

Projects located within historic districts must follow guidelines prescribed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Applicants may use funding for the following activities outlined below:

- Exterior Painting
- Roof Spouting
- Brick Repairs (within historic guidelines)
- Repair/replace exterior windows & doors (within historic guidelines)
- Safety improvements (including lighting, security gates, surveillance system)
- Signage on the building
- Improving the curb appeal of visible back and side entrances
- Landscaping around the building





# Building Façade and Streetscape Enhancement Program

## Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for applications are as follows:

- **Project Need:** Documentation of the need for the project and how it fits into a plan for community revitalization. Photos should be of buildings, streetscapes, courtyards, or gateways that will be part of the program as well as photos of the surrounding area. **All photos must demonstrate damage tied to Hurricanes Irma and/or Maria.** Points are awarded based on the photos and the description of need.
- **Project Impact:** How will this project benefit the town, a community, or individual businesses?
- **Project Plan:** Describe the plan and the long-term vision for the community.
- **Project Feasibility:** Evidence that the project can begin quickly and be completed within eighteen months of contract approval and that those managing the program are qualified.
- **Community Support:** Evidence in the application that the community is supportive of the project, (3) letters of support (e.g., stakeholders, or downtown businesses in the service area of the business).
- **Cost Estimate:** All proposed projects should be accompanied by a cost estimate provided by the applicant in order for the Program to conduct a cost-reasonableness analysis.
- **Sustainability:** Provide an outline of how program activities will continue to have positive impact after the end of the program (e.g., how will the property be utilized/maintained after the Program is completed?).

Please Note: Applicants must demonstrate the existence of an unmet need. An unmet need is determined after accounting for all federal, Territorial, local, and/or private sources of disaster-related U.S. Virgin Islands' CDBG-DR Action Plan, assistance available to the applicant, including, but not limited to FEMA, SBA, and flood insurance proceeds.

# Building Façade and Streetscape Enhancement Program

## Amortization Period

To prevent subrecipients from easily selling a property or business and profiting from the CDBG-DR-funded improvements, the property or business owners must agree to repay the program if they sell the mentioned assets within 5 years. However, subrecipient's obligation is forgiven after 5 years. During the five-year period, the subrecipient will supply the lender, CDBG-DR Program, with an annual proof of good standing.

The proposed amortization schedule:

- 0-12 months 100 percent repayment
- After 1 year 80 percent repayment
- After 2 years 60 percent repayment
- After 3 years 40 percent repayment
- After 4 years 20 percent repayment
- Over 5 years 0 percent repayment

# Small Business Grant and Technical Program

The Small Business Grant and Technical Assistance Program is *divided into two programs*:



Small Business Grant



Small Business Technical  
Assistance Program



## Components of SBETA

The Small Business Entrepreneurship Grant and Technical Assistance Program (SBETA) is comprised of two components:

1. Small Business Entrepreneurship Grant,
2. And Small Business Technical Assistance.



# Small Business Entrepreneurship Grant

Funding under this program component is open to the following entities:

- **Small businesses** -a business composed of 75 employees or less
- **Microenterprises** - a company that has five (5) or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the company

Working capital-eligible operating expenses disrupted by Hurricanes Irma/Maria include but are not limited to:

- Advertising
- License Fees (excluding operational business licenses)
- Accounting expenses
- Maintenance and repairs (costs cannot exceed determined grant award)
- Office expenses (e.g., supplies)

# Small Business Entrepreneurship Grant

## Evaluation

The evaluation criteria for each applicant are as follows:

- **Description of Business:** Documentation of type of business, number of employees, pictures of business location.
- **Project Impact:** How will this project benefit the town/community?
- **Project Plan:** Describe the business's long-term vision and if possible.
- **Project Feasibility:** Evidence that the project can begin quickly and be completed within **eighteen months** of contract approval and that those managing the program are qualified.
- **Cost Estimate (if applicable):** All proposed projects should be accompanied by a cost estimate provided by the applicant in order for the Program to conduct a cost-reasonableness analysis.
- **Sustainability:** Provide an outline of how program activities will continue to have positive impact after the end of the program (e.g., how will the property be utilized/maintained after the Program is completed?).

Please Note: Applicants must demonstrate the existence of an unmet need. An unmet need is determined after accounting for all federal, Territorial, local, and/or private sources of disaster-related U.S. Virgin Islands' CDBG-DR Action Plan, assistance available to the applicant, including, but not limited to FEMA, SBA, and flood insurance proceeds.

# Small Business Technical Assistance

Funding under this program is open to the following entities:

- Certified technical assistance providers
- Public and private, including non-profit and for profits.

The following criteria must be met in order to receive funding under the Small Business Entrepreneurship Grant and Technical Assistance Program:

- Applicant projects must demonstrate a tie to the disaster and an unmet need. An unmet need is determined after accounting for all federal, Territorial, local, and/or private sources of disaster-related U.S. Virgin Islands' CDBG-DR Action Plan, assistance available to the applicant, including, but not limited to FEMA, SBA, and flood insurance proceeds; and
- Business must have been created and licensed no later than September 30, 2017.



# Small Business Technical Assistance

Selected TA providers will be responsible for utilizing program funding to provide technical assistance to eligible small businesses. TA providers will receive and manage all applications for businesses seeking technical assistance under the SBETA program.

Funds may be used for the following activities:

- Business plan development
- Financial management
- Marketing
- Inventory
- Skilled workforce development

Subrecipients (TA Providers) will receive and manage all applications for this program. Applications must be submitted in accordance with the individual TA Provider's specifications, information on which will be maintained on both VIHFA's Disaster Recovery website and the subrecipient's office(s).

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and accepted candidates will be distributed into the most relevant cohort.

# Small Business Technical Assistance

## Trainees

All trainees must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant projects must demonstrate a tie to hurricane Irma and/or Maria and an unmet need. An unmet need is determined after accounting for all federal, Territorial, local, and/or private sources of disaster-related U.S. Virgin Islands' CDBG-DR Action Plan, assistance available to the applicant, including, but not limited to FEMA, SBA, and flood insurance proceeds.
- Business must be physically located in the Virgin Islands and must have been created and licensed no later than September 30, 2017.
- Must provide documentation demonstrating that their business is operating in good standing.
- Must comply with the training specifications set forth by the project's policy and the training provider.
- Applicants must complete the training course

## Certification

- When a business has successfully completed the technical assistance program, the Subrecipient must provide the business with a certificate of completion to demonstrate that training and Program goals were met. The certification should be tailored to the type of approved technical assistance that the business received (e.g., business plan development or financial management).

# Neighborhood Revitalization Program

## Definitions

- **Microenterprises:** for the purposes of the CDBG-DR program, a micro-enterprise is a company that has five (5) or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the company (this includes an autonomous individual).
- **Neighborhood Revitalization:** an investment in neighborhoods that have gone through periods of disinvestment or stagnation, often leading to negative socio-economic and real estate market trends.
- **Small Businesses:** defined as a business composed of 75 employees or less.
- **Training Providers:** individuals/firms who are able to train small businesses and entrepreneurs. Training programs must be designed to build socioeconomic growth and resiliency. Provide training in mitigating strategies that prevent or lower business disruption due to natural or manmade disasters.



# Application\Submission Review

Applications can be found at our offices on St. Thomas and St. Croix (please see addresses below) or on our website at [DR-Scope-and-Eligibility-App v3.4-Fillable-1.pdf \(vihfa.gov\)](#). All applications and supporting documentation must be submitted by **May 8, 2023**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Applicants can submit their applications using the following methods:

- Electronic Application – Applicants must follow instructions provided within this document and submit their application package to [ERNR@vihfa.gov](mailto:ERNR@vihfa.gov).
  - Electronic applications are due by 11:59 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).
- Postal Mail/Hand Delivery must be postmarked May 8, 2023)
  - 3202 Demarara Plaza, Suite 200, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802
    - (Frenchtown VIHFA Office).
  - 100 Lagoon Complex, Suite 4, Frederiksted, Virgin Islands 00840
    - (Old Legislature Building)
- Hard copies will be accepted from 8:00am to 5:00pm at the following location

Applicants will receive a letter of intent to accept or reject the application based on adherence to the listed criteria. Deficient applications will be returned to the applicant, with written correspondence detailing the errors and required corrections. Five (5) business days will be provided from the date of written correspondence to make the required corrections to their application.

# Economic Revitalization Program Staff Contact Information



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An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in the Caribbean. In the foreground, a large, modern building with a flat roof is covered in solar panels. To its right, a cluster of older buildings with red-tiled roofs and white walls is visible. The town is situated on a hillside overlooking a vibrant blue harbor filled with numerous sailboats and yachts. The water transitions from a deep blue to a lighter turquoise near the shore. In the background, the open ocean stretches to the horizon, with several small islands visible. The word "Questions" is overlaid in white text in the center of the image.

# Questions